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the opportunity to continue and maintain the integrity of this body's promises. The fertilizer tax began its life as a balancing act to reimburse the General Fund of the state of Nebraska for monies that were calculated to have been lost when farm equipment was converted from a "nontaxed" situation for personal property tax to a tax situation which resulted from the Supreme Court's decisions in the car lines and pipelines cases back in about 1989 or '90. In order to make things balance, those in doing the negotiations felt that agriculture needed to contribute a few more dollars to make a sales tax exemption balance so that the...the General Fund of the state of Nebraska was not hurt, and that's how it existed for several years. Then the Legislature ran into a problem of trying to find the money to provide funds for the Ethanol Production Incentive Credit Fund, and so the four dollar a ton fertilizer tax was changed at that time into two...in two ways. Number one, for I believe it was several years, two years, in order to raise enough money to make that producer-funded incentive credit work at that time, that the four dollars a ton was channeled into the Ethanol Production Incentive Credit Fund. And in that bill, and I believe, and if I'm inaccurate in memory, without looking it up, I would certainly be...stand corrected, the fertilizer tax was extended for approximately six years, the last four of which the tax was reduced from four dollars to one dollar, or from three dollars to one dollar, whatever the appropriate reduction was, and that money was to go to the NRDs to assist them in the beginning stages of groundwater quality control product...projects. And there was a promise made at that time that this tax would sunset on December 31st the year 2000. So, lest the body understand...think that this is a long going process, this money has been flowing to the NRDs for two years and has two more years of life left in it to do as Senator Beutler indicated, to help in identifying the problems and the source of pollution. It's easy to make grand statements of source. Lots of money has been spent in investigations and most of the decisions have been inconclusive. But I would close and turn the microphone...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR COORDSEN: ...over to my Chair in saying that this Legislature, in this tax, gave their word a number of years ago